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WIVENHOE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health
for 1954

BRIGHTLINGSEA

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1955

Rebow Chambers,
Colchester.

4 June, 1955.

Madam Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the district for the year 1954.

The report follows the lines of previous reports, and is in accordance with instructions contained in recent circulars of the Ministry of Health.

The year has been satisfactory from the health point of view. There was a further slight reduction in the number of deaths, and the incidence of infectious disease was small.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support of members of the Council, and for the co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

W. H. ALDERTON.

WIVENHOE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Area (acres):

Registrar General's estimate of resident population: 2,530.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Books: 930.

Rateable value: £11,740.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £45.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is situated on the east bank of the River Coine, where its waters are still tidal. It is about four miles down the river from Colchester, and it is also on the main line from London to Clacton-on-Sea. Local industries are shipbuilding, general engineering, agriculture, canning, and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M	F
Live Births: Legitimate ...	38	11	27
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Still Births: Legitimate ...	—	—	—
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Deaths ...	31	15	16
Comparability figure ...	0.76		
) Birth Rate per 1,000			
) estimated resident			
) population ...			15
Corrected Rate ...			16.8
) Rate per 1,000 total			
) births ...			—
Death Rate per 1,000			
estimated resident			
population ...			12.2
Corrected Death Rate			9.2
		Rate per	
	Deaths	1,000 total births	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			
Puerperal sepsis	—		—
Other Puerperal causes	—		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age			
All Infants per 1,000 live births			—
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Deaths from Cancer	5		
Deaths from Measles	—		
Deaths from Whooping Cough	—		

Deaths in the Various Age Groups (Local Statistics)

0—1	year	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
1—2	years	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
2—5	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
5—15	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
15—25	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
25—35	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
35—45	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
45—55	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
55—65	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
65—75	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
75—85	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
85 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
								31

Causes of Death								M	F
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Disease of Heart and blood vessels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other defined or ill-defined disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2

The following table shows the approximate state of Immunisation against Diphtheria at December 31st, 1954:—

Population 0—4 inclusive	Number Immunised	Percentage
198	87	43.9
Population 5—14 inclusive		
383	335	87

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

It was unnecessary to take action for the removal of aged persons in need of care and attention.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health—W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He is employed part-time: he devotes the remainder of his time to two neighbouring Authorities and to the County Council.

The Sanitary Inspector—
W. Hodgson, M.R.San.I., resigned April, 1954; A. E. Rogers, C.R.S.I.,
appointed June, 1954.

He is also employed as Surveyor to the district.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, when a bacteriological analysis is required, and to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, when a chemical or complete analysis is required.

Samples of food and ice cream, etc., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Non-emergency calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation, dial "999," "O" or "O1" and ask for an ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

Nursing in the Home.

Health Visiting.

Mental Welfare.

Vaccination, and Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

School Health Service.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester, at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant welfare clinics are held at the Community Centre on the first and third Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester. Telephone: Col 6251, Ext. 3.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Tuberculosis.—The chest clinic is situated at 3 Shewell Road, Colchester. Consultations are held daily by appointment.

V.D.—Sessions are held at the Essex County Hospital at the following times:—

Mondays, 5—7 p.m. for Males and Females.

Fridays, 2.30—3.30 p.m. for Females and Children.

3.30—4.30 p.m. for Males.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water. There is a public piped water supply obtained from a deep bore in Queens Road. The pumping levels have remained fairly steady during the year, but with the existing pump there is not a great margin of safety. The quality of the water is satisfactory, and the supply is chlorinated.

The number of samples of water submitted for chemical analysis was 3, and for bacteriological examination 10.

During the year 15 dwelling houses have been connected to the mains. The number of houses now connected to the mains is 762 with an approximate population of 2,120.

The number of houses taking water from stand pipes is 125 with an approximate population of 346.

An extension of 24 yards of 3 in. main was laid in Manor Road.

A typical analysis of the water is appended.

Chemical Results in parts per Million

Appearance—clear and bright. Turbidity—nil. Colour—nil. Odour—nil. pH—7.9. Free Carbon Dioxide—5. Electric Conductivity—1,850. Total Solids—1,230. Chlorine present as Chloride—420. Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate—290. Hardness—Total 120. Carbonate—120. Non-Carbonate—0. Nitrate Nitrogen—0.6. Nitrate Nitrogen less than 0.01 Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.000. Oxygen Absorbed—0.30. Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000. Residual Chlorine—Absent. Metals—Absent.

Bacteriological Results

Plate Count Yeastral agar 2 days at 37°C.—1 per ml. Plate Count Yeastral agar 3 days at 20°C.—0 per ml. Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction—Absent from 100 ml. Bact. Coli (Type 1)—Absent from 100 ml. Cl. Welchii Reaction—Nil.

These results are normal for this pumping station and are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character, apart from the known content of fluorine.

HOUSING

The housing problem is less acute than it was, and the Council have the matter well in hand.

A preliminary survey shows that there are a number of houses which require to be examined in detail, with a view to recommending them for inclusion in clearance areas.

The number of houses completed by the Council during the year was 2, and the number by private enterprise 13.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There was no serious interference with the proper working of the sewage disposal works this year; nevertheless, the plant is still operating to capacity, with the consequence that further development will lead to overloading.

During the year 15 dwelling houses were connected to the sewer.

One small extension of 10 feet was made.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Routine inspections have been carried out at food and catering establishments.

The premises established in the district are as set out in the report for last year.

Food condemned during the year included

Danish Pork, 4 lbs.

Beans, 8oz.

Condensed Milk, 1 can.

Peas, 1 can.

Red Plums, 9 cans.

Rock Lobster, 1 tin.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman,

I beg to submit my report on the work carried out during the year.

No. of Premises inspected under the Public Health Acts ...	30
--	----

No. of Premises inspected under the Housing Acts ...	16
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Inspections and Visits in regard to complaints, work in hand,
property under notice and routine inspections:—

Under the Public Health Acts	... ..	120
Under the Housing Acts	... ..	36
Pest Act	... ..	10
Butchers' Shops and Food Stores	... ..	7
Ice Cream Dealers	... ..	14
Factories and Workshops	... ..	10
Piggeries	... ..	3
Drainage systems inspected and tested	... ..	27
Interviews with owners, etc.	... ..	6
Water samples taken	... ..	13
Results of Above Inspections and Action Taken—		
Statutory Notices served and complied with	... ..	1
Informal letters sent and complied with	... ..	17
Disinfections and Disinfestations	... ..	2
Rodent treatments carried out	... ..	10
Drainage systems altered, repaired and cleared	... ..	2

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

April, 1955.

A. E. Rogers, Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable disease was less prevalent than last year; actually notifications were half last year's total. Nevertheless, this was marred by the occurrence of two cases of Poliomyelitis. Fortunately they were mild cases and both made a complete recovery.

Details of the cases are shown in the following table:—

	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	Totals
Whooping Cough	5	1	—	—	6
Scarlet Fever	1	5	—	—	6
Poliomyelitis	—	2	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1	2

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

Routine inspections have been made of factories, and defects observed have been remedied.

The following table gives details of the work done :—

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	9	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	3	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective ...	1	1
Outwork		Nil



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